GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1432
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2001
MELTING OF HIMALAYAN RANGE BY PAK
JAYABEN B. THAKKAR;MOHAMMED SHAHABUDDIN;RAM PRASAD SINGH;SAMUDRALA VENUGOPAL CHARY

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that Pakistan has been sprinkling large quantity of ash over the Batura glacier in the Himalayas causing overflowing the Indus river and interfering with the fragile ecosystem of the Himalayas;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;-

(c) whether the Government have taken up this issue with the Government of Pakistan;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the remedial measures the Government propose to take in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a) & (e) No authenticated information regarding attempts in Pakistanfor artificial melting of glaciers is available. Some speculative and unconfirmed reports have appeared in the media about Pakistan considering carrying out such experiments on glaciers in the Pakistan portion of North-West Himalaya. Such experiments are known to have been conductedby some countries for scientific purposes. The present state of knowledge indicates that such experiments do not have any significant large scale impact on the melt process since such processes are influenced by a complex range of factors. In view of the unconfirmed and unauthenticated nature of the news report, it is not considered necessary to take up the issue at this stage with the Government of Pakistan. The Government is vigilant and is capable of formulating an appropriate response, if the need arises.